

Samuel Effinger House (demolished 1929)  
Lancaster, Ohio

FAIRFIELD Co

HABS No. 0-41

HABS  
OHIO  
23 LANC  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Samuel Effinger House  
Lancaster, Ohio

Owner - Demolished 1929

The front door, the upper window, an inside door, and a mantel are installed in the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts.

Date of Erection - No documentary evidence

1823: I. T. Frary, Early Homes of Ohio, 1936, p. 56.

1826: Dickerson and Riddle, Early Ohio Architecture of Lancaster & Vicinity, MS Thesis, The Ohio State University, 1927, p. 19.

Date of Viewing -

Description -

Plan - 38'6" x 26'4"

A passage with staircase and one room.

First floor 12', Second floor 11', Gable 8 1/2'.

Construction - stone basement walls 20" thick, brick walls of alternating stretchers and headers. Outside walls 12" thick, gables 9". Stone for exterior framing of doors and windows and belt course.

Interior framing and finish wood. Walls lathed and plastered.

Elevations -

Front - At left, Venetian door with arch 17 1/2" to keystone, which is ornamented by a carved dove holding an olive branch in its mouth.

Above there is a Venetian window, with a carved keystone decorated with roll, flair and beading down center.

To the left were two 12-light windows with stone sills and stone lintels with ornamental blocks.

Originally there was a balustrade between the chimneys.

Rear - Was attached to former building.

West - 2 windows.

East - Stepped gable. 2 chimneys. A semi-circular window in gable. Two 12-light windows, one on each floor.

#### Interior -

Ground floor - The Venetian door opened into the 12' passage which was separated into a vestibule by an elliptical arch with beaded keystone supported on columns with Roman-type Ionic corner capitals. The shafts were fluted and supported by a paneled base block.

The door into the living room was 8-paneled and framed by pilaster architraves with Gothic and bead molding which was used throughout the house for door and window jambs. The door lintel had a full entablature with ornamental blocks, decorated with a circular rayed motif and a fan motif.

The geometrical stairs rose in a continuous curve with 22 risers and stair brackets.

The fireplace in the living room has an over-mantel enclosed by a pilaster architrave. There is a four-kneed mantel with paired Tuscan columns.

Upstairs - The mantel from the upstairs room is now in the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts. There is a six-kneed mantel supported by single Tuscan columns.

#### History -

Samuel Effinger, from Philadelphia, added this building to the existing 3-room house with side gallery and outside stairs.

This brick building, erected before 1825, was the Reber Tavern with the entrance facing west. It was a stopping place for stage coaches.

According to Dickerson and Riddle, work on the front house was started in June 1826 and the name of the builder was Sleick.

It was lived in by Effinger descendants until its demolition in 1929. It was kept in good repair and underwent only minor alterations such as the substitution for clear paned glass for the 6-light sashes. Plain boarding was substituted for the balustrade shown in the original elevation.

References -

Dickerson, Frank James and William David Riddle,  
Early Ohio Architecture of Lancaster & Vicinity,  
MS Thesis, The Ohio State University, 1927.  
Measured drawings and old photographs.

Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians,  
December 1957, "American Notes," ed. Charles E.  
Peterson.

Original Source Material -

Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts

Drawings

1. Front and side elevation
2. Ground floor plan
3. Second floor plan

Specifications -

1. Specifications of Samuel Effinger Building  
Brick and Stone.
2. Bill of Carpenter and Joiner Work.

Agnes A. Gilchrist  
National Park Service  
EODC  
120 South 3rd Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pa.  
1957